

Title 2: Agriculture and Commerce
Part 2: Rules of the Mississippi Fairgrounds
Subpart 1 General Rules

Solicitors and Peddlers

100.01 When the State Fair is in progress, no person or organization may solicit money, votes or signatures, sell or distribute merchandise, including written materials, or engage in a protest, demonstration or political speech on the Fairgrounds, except from a booth or display area on the Fairgrounds assigned by the Department. Such booths shall be assigned by the Department on a “first come-first served” basis, with a rental charge based on the size and location of the booth. Such activities must be conducted within the confines of the assigned booth or display area. This provision and §100.02 below do not apply to food or beverage sales.

(Adopted February 8, 2008; Amended October 21, 2022.)

100.02 When the State Fair is not in progress, no person or organization may solicit money, votes or signatures, sell or distribute merchandise, including written materials, or engage in a protest, demonstration or political speech until after he has registered with the Department. Such person or organization may not conduct these activities in a building or area leased to a tenant or in the livestock barns. Such activities must be conducted at least 100 ft. from the building, or perimeter of the outdoor area, where the event is being held. No more than three persons may engage in such activities on behalf of the subject organization, political candidate or ideology being advocated.

(Adopted February 8, 2008; Amended October 21, 2022.)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §69-5-3.

Signs

101 A sign, display or poster may be erected by a person or organization authorized by the Department to be an exhibitor, vendor or building tenant on the Fairgrounds at his designated space or building during the subject event. Any person participating in a protest, demonstration or political speech on the Fairgrounds may carry a sign, display or poster no larger than nine sq. ft. in area in his hands or on his body during such activity. The Department may operate its electronic sign at the High Street entrance to the Fairgrounds and enter into agreements for advertising on the Fairgrounds. The Department may authorize signs, displays, posters or banners as part of or to promote tenant activity of events. Outside of these agreements, no signs, displays or posters shall be allowed on the Fairgrounds.

(Adopted February 8, 2008; Amended October 21, 2022.)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §69-5-3.

Ejection from State Fairgrounds

- 102 Any person coming onto the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi who engages in any conduct that poses a clear and present danger to the public health, safety or welfare, including but not limited to, fighting, intoxication (alcohol or drugs), use of profanity, acts of terrorism, unauthorized discharge of weapons or disorderly or threatening conduct, may be immediately ejected from the Fairgrounds by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture's ("Department") duly authorized agents or designees for the duration of the event at which the conduct occurred, or for a period of ten (10) days if no event was in progress.

The ejected person shall then have thirty (30) days to request an informal administrative review before the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee, who shall act as a reviewing officer. At this informal administrative review, subpoena power shall not be available, witnesses shall not be sworn or be subject to cross examination and no record shall be made of the proceedings. The reviewing officer's decision shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the parties by certified mail. If the accused does not request a hearing within thirty (30) days, then he is deemed to have waived his right to a review. The decision of the Commissioner or his designee shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the parties by certified mail. If either party is aggrieved by the decision, he shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the Commissioner's order to appeal to the circuit court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County. Any appeal to circuit court shall be made in accordance with existing state laws and regulations governing such appeals.

(Adopted December 20, 2014; Amended October 21, 2022.)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §69-5-3.

Mississippi Fairgrounds Food and Beverage / Bag Policy

- 103.01 Due to contracts with concessionaires and vendors, no food or beverage may be brought into the Mississippi Coliseum, Trade Mart, or Kirk Fordice Equine Center from an independent source.
- 103.02 All bags and persons are subject to search. Many show promoters might have more stringent guidelines such as metal detectors, wandings, or a stricter bag size policy, so please refer to the policy of the show you are attending for additional information.
- 103.03 Items may be returned to your vehicle prior to entry or may be forfeited. Forfeited items become the property of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and will not be returned to the individual or show producer. The Department will not store or hold any item for any reason.

- 103.04 Other prohibited items in buildings include:
- (1) animals (with the exception of service animals as provided in the *American with Disabilities Act* or support animals as specified in the “Mississippi Support Animal Act”)
 - (2) banners
 - (3) fireworks
 - (4) glitter
 - (5) laser pointers
 - (6) helium balloons
 - (7) marketing / soliciting / vending items
 - (8) other items deemed unacceptable by the Show Promoter. Again, check the show promoter’s policy for additional limitations.
- (Adopted April 20, 2019; Amended October 21, 2022.)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §69-5-3.

Vendor Booths

- 104 A three-person committee will review applications for prospective and returning vendors associated with the Mississippi State Fair and the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo. The committee will include the Fair Manager, Assistant Fair Manager, and Purchasing Chief for the Mississippi Fair Commission. The committee may approve or deny any application.

Vendors must:

- Submit an application prior to July 1 of each year.
- Provide photos showing the proposed booth.
- Provide a list or description of products being offered. The Mississippi Fair Commission seeks to provide a wide assortment and variety of products.
- Provide general liability insurance in an amount to be determined by the Mississippi Fair Commission.
- Products and/or product advertising may not conflict with any existing contracts or agreements of the Mississippi Fair Commission, the Mississippi State Fair or the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- Adhere to all rules, regulations and policies of the Mississippi Fair Commission, including but not limited to: payment schedules, electrical fees, trash removal fees, delivery guidelines, signage guidelines, decorating guidelines, employee guidelines, safety guidelines, health department guidelines, and requirements of the Mississippi Department of Revenue and the State Fire Marshall.

Booth space will or will not be granted by the Committee based upon a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Space availability. Space is limited and, historically, new openings are rarely available;
- The Mississippi Fair Commission’s history with a vendor;
- Public comments or complaints about previous vendors;

- Reputation of vendor with other fairs and events;
- Honesty and integrity of items represented when compared to items actually sold. Signage must not be misleading and should clearly and accurately depict description of products offered for sale.
- Vendor booth products should be consistent with the Mississippi State Fair's family-friendly atmosphere; and
- Avoiding the placement of too many booths offering the same product.

(Adopted August 29, 2019.)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §69-5-3.